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Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Twenty-second report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/64/349/Add.6). The report contains the proposed additional resource requirements for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010 for three special political missions, namely the United Nations Representative on the International Advisory and Monitoring Board of the Development Fund for Iraq, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities and the Monitoring Group on Somalia. During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 64/245, approved an overall provision of $1 billion for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. The Assembly also approved the budgets of the 26 special political missions presented in table 1 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/349) and a charge totalling $569,526,500 against the mentioned provision. The remaining balance in the provision for special political missions for 2010-2011 therefore amounts to $430,473,500.

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3. The Secretary-General proposed additional requirements for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010 in the amount of $1,044,000 net ($1,045,100 gross) for the three missions indicated in paragraph 1 above (A/63/349/Add.6). The amount is proposed to be charged against the balance in the provision for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. The Advisory Committee notes that the mandates of these three special political missions were either expanded or extended after submission of the reports of the Secretary-General containing the resources for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010 (A/63/349/Add.1-5).

4. **The comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the requirements for the three special political missions presented in the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/349/Add.6) are contained in sections II to V below.**

II. United Nations Representative on the International Advisory and Monitoring Board

5. The Advisory Committee recalls that the overall resources proposed for special political missions in the report of the Secretary-General for 2010 reflected the anticipated completion of the mandate of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board by 31 December 2009 (A/64/349, table 1). No provision was therefore included in the resources proposed by the Secretary-General. However, the Security Council, in its resolution 1905 (2009), decided to extend the mandate of the Board to 31 December 2010. The Committee notes that the Council also requested the Secretary-General to report on progress made and options to implement successor arrangements for the Development Fund for Iraq; called upon the Government of Iraq to put in place a necessary action plan and timeline to ensure the timely and effective transition to a post-Development Fund mechanism by 31 December 2010; and requested it, inter alia, to submit reports providing an assessment of progress against the action plan and oversight improvements (see Security Council resolution 1905 (2009), paras. 3-5).

6. The resource requirements proposed for the United Nations Representative on the International Advisory and Monitoring Board for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010 are estimated at $82,200. These resources would provide for the official travel of the Representative and his or her alternates/advisers to the meetings of the Board ($60,300) and the resources for the hosting of one meeting in New York ($21,900) (A/62/349/Add.6, para. 6). The Board is expected to hold five meetings in 2010 (Amman, Washington, D.C., Kuwait City, Paris and New York), compared to four in 2009.

7. The Advisory Committee notes that the increase in the requirements, as compared with the resources appropriated for 2009 of $36,700, is attributable to more meetings being held away from New York and the hosting of a two-day meeting in New York. **The Committee recommends approval of the resources proposed for the United Nations Representative on the International Advisory and Monitoring Board for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010.**

III. Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities

8. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1526 (2004). The Council, in paragraph 20 of its resolution 1904 (2009), decided, inter alia, that the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee would be assisted by an Office of the Ombudsman, to be established for an initial period of 18 months from the date of adoption of that resolution. Information on the background, mandate and objective of this special political mission was provided in document A/64/349/Add.2, paragraphs 82 to 86, and updated in document A/64/349/Add.6, paragraphs 7 to 9.

9. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Ombudsman function was essentially an expansion and empowering of the focal point process set out in the annex to Security Council resolution 1730 (2006), which was established to receive de-listing requests from petitioners designated on any Security Council sanctions list. It would be logical to assume, therefore, that the Ombudsman eventually could be given the responsibility by the Council for receiving and processing requests from petitioners designated on any sanctions list. The mandate, functions and tasks of the Ombudsman are contained in annex II to Council resolution 1904 (2009). The Committee notes that, in accordance with paragraph 21 of Council resolution 1904 (2009), after the appointment of the Ombudsman, the focal point mechanism (P-4) established in resolution 1730 (2006) shall no longer receive requests from individuals or entities seeking to be removed from the Consolidated List, but shall continue to receive requests from individuals and entities seeking to be removed from other sanctions lists. Consequently, and as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/349/Add.6, para. 11), part of the focal point's time will be freed to provide support to the Ombudsman at an adequate level while providing the institutional memory related to de-listing, access to files and the normal range of office logistics.

10. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 64/245, approved an amount of $3,970,900 for the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team for 2010. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, the estimated additional requirements for 2010 resulting from the decision contained in Security Council resolution 1904 (2009) would amount to $192,800 (A/64/349/Add.6). The requirements include the fees of the Ombudsman, which are estimated at $187,700 (on the basis of a monthly rate of $12,880 plus cost-of-living allowance of $5,700, as well as provision for possible claims under appendix D to the Staff Rules), communication charges ($1,200), information technology equipment and maintenance ($3,500) and other supplies ($400). The Committee was informed that the costs were calculated on the basis of a 10-month requirement with the exception of non-recurrent requirements of $2,400 for the acquisition of a computer and printer included in the provision for information technology, based on the expectation that the Ombudsman would begin fulfilling his or her duties at the end of March 2010.

11. Upon enquiry, given the difference in the rates used to calculate the fees of the Ombudsman and those of the three additional experts proposed for the Monitoring Group on Somalia (see para. 16 below), the Advisory Committee was informed that

the current highest rate was used for calculating the fees of the Ombudsman, owing to the high qualifications and experience the Ombudsman should possess, in accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1904 (2009). The Committee was further informed that the Council had decided that the position should not be held by a Secretariat staff member, but by an independent and highly qualified expert appointed by the Secretary-General through a letter addressed to the Security Council, given the need for independence and impartiality. In this connection, the Committee recalls that a letter from the Secretary-General announcing the appointment of the Ombudsman will be issued as a document of the Council, as is current practice with experts appointed to serve on other monitoring groups and expert panels.

12. **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the additional resources proposed by the Secretary-General for the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team for 2010.**

IV. Monitoring Group on Somalia

13. The Security Council, in its resolution 1519 (2003), established the Monitoring Group on Somalia as a successor arrangement to the Panel of Experts on Somalia. While the mandate has been extended several times, the Council, in its resolution 1907 (2009), expanded the mandate of the Monitoring Group to encompass new measures against Eritrea. The additional tasks the Monitoring Group is expected to perform are contained in paragraph 19 of Council resolution 1907 (2009) (see also A/64/349/Add.6, para. 15). The Advisory Committee notes that it is anticipated that the mandate of the Monitoring Group will be extended beyond March 2010, after submission and consideration by the Security Council of the final report of the Group (ibid., para. 13).

14. The Advisory Committee notes that in line with the request in paragraph 19 of Security Council resolution 1907 (2009) for appropriate arrangements for additional resources and personnel so that the expanded Monitoring Group may continue to carry out its mandate, the Secretary-General is proposing that the Group comprise two distinct teams, one for Somalia, which currently includes five experts, and one for Eritrea, comprising three additional experts having particular expertise in the areas of arms embargoes, transportation and finance. The Committee also notes that the expanded Monitoring Group will be based in Entebbe, Uganda for security reasons, taking advantage of the presence of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the proximity of Entebbe to Somalia and surrounding countries.

15. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 64/245, appropriated an amount of $1,555,200 for 2010 for the Monitoring Group on Somalia on the basis of proposals made by the Secretary-General (A/64/349/Add.2). As indicated by the Secretary-General, the estimated additional requirements for 2010, following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1907 (2009), would amount to $769,000 (A/64/349/Add.6). These include civilian personnel costs of $7,500, related to one additional position proposed for an administrative assistant (Local level) to address the increase in the workload in terms of research and administrative support; an additional provision of $715,900 to cover the fees of the three additional experts proposed for nine months ($422,700) and their travel ($293,200), as well as other

operational costs, including travel costs of United Nations staff to set up the office in Entebbe ($23,200), rental of vehicles for 20 monitoring missions ($3,000), communications charges and telecommunications equipment ($7,900), information technology equipment and maintenance ($9,000) and other supplies ($2,500).

16. The Advisory Committee was informed that the fees of the three additional experts were calculated on the basis of nine months at a monthly rate of $11,600, plus a cost-of-living allowance of $3,900 and provisions for possible claims under appendix D to the Staff Rules. The rates constitute an average of all current fees used and a budgetary estimate. The exact level of remuneration is determined in consultation with the Office of Human Resources Management in accordance with established procedures (see also para. 11 above).

17. **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the additional resources proposed by the Secretary-General for the Monitoring Group on Somalia for 2010.**

V. Recommendation

18. **With regard to the proposal made by the Secretary-General for action to be taken by the General Assembly, as set out in paragraph 21 of his report (A/64/349/Add.6), the Advisory Committee recommends that the Assembly approve the additional requirements for 2010 of $1,044,000 net ($1,045,100 gross) for the United Nations Representative on the International Advisory and Monitoring Board of the Development Fund for Iraq and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004). The Committee recommends that the additional requirements be accommodated from the provision of $569,526,500 approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/245 for the biennium 2010-2011.**